

# **RSA Publications and Notifications**

## ***Member Handbooks***

### ***(TRS, ERS, State Police, and JRF)***

Each Member Handbook presents an overview of mandatory participation, creditable service, vesting, disability and service retirement, preretirement death benefits and postretirement employment. Each new member is mailed a handbook upon receipt of an enrollment form from the employing agency. A handbook may be requested at any time.

### ***RSA-1 Deferred Compensation Plan Member Handbook***

RSA-1 is a voluntary deferred compensation plan governed by Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. RSA-1 will provide information at the request of the member or the agency.

## ***Educational Opportunities***

The RSA offers its members several opportunities for retirement education. Retirement Preparation Seminars are offered at various sites throughout Alabama. This program helps members to begin or continue their planning and preparation for retirement. The Ret Prep Seminars are full-day programs. Schedules for these seminars are released once a year. The registration packets including the schedule are mailed to Human Resource Offices and Payroll Offices. All schedules and forms are placed on the RSA Web site for our members' convenience.

Individual counseling appointments are offered across the state as well. These are twenty-minute appointments with a TRS counselor. The counselor will answer your questions and review your estimate of benefits. Schedules are released once a year and are placed on the RSA Web site.

TRS members are always welcome to come to the RSA Executive Building on the corner of Union and Adams in Montgomery. Appointments are nice but not necessary. All walk-ins are welcome.

## ***RSA Annual Report***

In February of each year, the RSA publishes the Annual Report. The report provides information about assets, investments, membership, the RSA Boards of Control, RSA departments, and financial statements.

### ***Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)***

The CAFR, published annually, provides more detailed financial and actuarial information about the RSA.

## ***RSA Newsletter***

The monthly *Advisor* is mailed to each RSA active member, RSA retired member, and any other persons or organizations interested in the RSA. The *Advisor* informs recipients of important topics regarding the TRS, ERS, RSA-1, PEIRAF, PEEHIP, legislation, investments, and counseling schedules. Comparisons of insurance and retirement benefits provided by other states and current information regarding Social Security, taxes, and Alabama's economic and political climate are also featured.

## ***Annual Statement of Account***

The TRS provides each member a Statement of Account for the year ending June 30. The statements are sent to the last employer for which contributions were posted for June for distribution to TRS members.

The Statement of Account verifies current year contributions and accumulated interest. The total service credit, interest, service purchases, previously taxed contributions, non-taxed contributions, and balance are also provided. The member's designated beneficiary, mailing address, and change of address as of June 30 are listed.

### ***RSA-1 Statement***

For those electing to participate in the RSA-1 Deferred Compensation Plan, a statement is sent to the member's mailing address semi-annually. The statement verifies the balance and earnings as of March 31 and September 30. The member's designated beneficiary is also listed.

### ***DROP Account Statement***

Each DROP participant receives a statement shortly after the close of each fiscal year (September 30) detailing the preceding year's transactions and giving a year-end account balance.

### ***Postretirement Employment Notification***

Each year, the TRS provides the participating agency information regarding postretirement earnings limitations and the requirement for certifying postretirement employment information.

The law mandates that the employer notify the TRS when a retired, RSA member is employed full-time. If the retired, RSA member is not employed full-time, the agency must notify the TRS when the retiree's earnings exceed the earnings limit.

### ***Terminated Account Information Request***

The TRS may request mailing address information from participating agencies about former employees whose retirement accounts have been terminated due to an absence of participation. The TRS reviews terminated accounts throughout the year and will try to locate former members to be able to return contributions. Vested accounts (with 10 years of service) will not be terminated.